

In Bridgeport, the Parent Leadership Training Institute, with oversight of the Commission on Children and funding from the Parent Trust Fund, has resulted in:

- A Community Garden resulting in the revising and transformation of Wentfield Park; over 15 community organizations and agencies utilize the park for activities and community affairs; district high school students use the park for football practice and track; local adult and little league games are held at the park. The park is a direct benefit for the West Side where 100-200 families enjoy and make use of the park monthly from April - October;
- A PLTI graduate giving over 26,000 volunteer hours in the community within the schools and with advocacy groups since 2003;
- A community project for children committed to DCF where a website is dedicated to providing resources needed to support successful transition of children;
- A resource website for residents of the East End which resulted in a local state agency creating a position where the PLTI graduate expanded the website for Bridgeport and surrounding towns;
- Information fairs for parents, 6 week sessions for teen moms and dads, Multicultural events, workshops on parent involvement in education, Family Fun Days at several parks in Bridgeport, workshops for parents of children with special needs, a coat drive, clothing/food drive for Homes for the Brave and Daughters of Charity by graduates of the Children's Leadership Training Institute, and MANY MORE—benefiting hundreds of Bridgeport-area families!

The Commission on Children and the Parent Trust Fund are making a difference throughout the state and in Bridgeport. The resources are vital investments in our children and families, especially in these tough economic times. Please don't forget Connecticut's children and families during the state's budget crisis!

Sincerely,

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